

From the Upper Chamber



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Report for Monday, January 23, 2006

The sixth day of the 2006 legislative session was called to order by Lieutenant Governor **Mark Taylor**.

Senator **Don Balfour** of the 9th stated that the journal had been read and was found to be correct.

Senate Bills 433-439 and House Bill 978 were read for the first time and assigned to their respective Committees.

Following the second reading of Senate Bills and Resolutions, the morning roll call was taken.

Lt. Gov. **Taylor** then recognized Sen. **Ed Tarver** of the 22nd to lead the Senate in the Pledge of Allegiance. Sen. **Tarver** introduced the *Chaplain of the Day*, Reverend **Stephen Bratton** of Doyle Grove Baptist Church in Blythe, who led the Senate in the daily devotional.

Sen. **Johnny Grant** of the 25th took the well on a Point of Personal Privilege to request that all Senators sign a resolution honoring the life of **Ray Crawford**, former head of the Georgia Building Authority.

Sens. **Sam Zamarripa** of the 36th, **Valencia Seay** of the 34th and Sen. **Vincent Fort** of the 39th took the well on Points of Personal Privilege to speak to SB 84 and current voter identification issues.

SR 688-690 were read and adopted.

The Secretary then read HB 970, which would temporarily suspend a portion of the state tax on liquid propane and natural gas, and Sen. **Mitch Seabaugh** of the 28th moved to engross the bill.

Sen. **Steve Thompson** of the 33rd objected to the motion to engross.

Sen. **Seabaugh** took the well to present HB 970, and to explain his motion to engross. Sen. **Thompson** of the 33rd then took the well to speak to HB 970, and to the motion to engross.

The motion to engross passed by a vote of 33-20.

Sen. **Seabaugh** then took the well to further explain HB 970. He yielded to questions from Sens. **David Adelman** of the 42nd and **Regina Thomas** of the 2nd.

Sen. **Fort** took the well to speak to HB 970, stating he would vote for the legislation, but that it does not provide enough relief for Georgia's natural gas consumers. He yielded to questions from Sen. **Steve Henson** of the 41st.

Sen. **Thomas** of the 2nd took the well to speak to HB 970, and against the deregulation of the natural gas industry.

HB 970 passed by a vote of 51-3.

Sen. **David Shafer** of the 48th took the well to present SB 399, which concerns municipal corporations and special service districts. He yielded to questions from Sen. **Thompson** of the 33rd.

Sen. **Fort** took the well to speak to SB 399, and against recent suggestions to split Fulton County. He yielded to questions from Sens. **Shafer** and **Thomas** of the 2nd.

The Committee Substitute to SB 399 was adopted by a vote of 47-0.

SB 399 passed by Substitute by a vote of 50-2.

Majority Leader **Tommie Williams** of the 19th moved the Senate adopt House Resolution 1107, calling a joint session of the House of Representatives and the Senate to hear the State of the Judiciary from Chief Justice **Leah Ward Sears**. There was no objection.

Following the announcements, Majority Leader **Williams** moved to stand adjourned until 10:00 a.m., Tuesday, January 24.

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